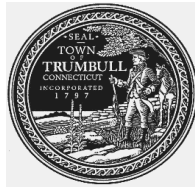


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**FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING
MINUTES
March 25, 2010**

The Finance Committee 2010-2011 Budget Hearing of the Town Council was called to order by Chairman Robert Pescatore, Jr. at 7:05 p.m. All present joined in a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance.

Members present: Tony Scinto, Debra Lamberti, Robert Pescatore, Jr., John Rotondo (arrived at 7:48 p.m.)

Members Absent: Jane Deyoe and John DelVecchio, Jr.

Arts Commission: (7:05 p.m.)

Ms. Emily Areson, Arts Commission Coordinator was present to present the budget. Ms. Areson explained no increase has been requested for 8 years, the coordinator is a part time position, but usually the position demands more than part time hours. The arts commission coordinates the gallery at the Town Hall, the Arts Festival and holds cabarets at the Senior Center. The cabarets have had as many as 90 people ages 3 to 89 years old attend. The proceeds go into a special agency account. Many of the people are non-residents, which prompted charging for the cabaret. Arts Commission ended at 7:12 p.m.

Youth Council: (7:13 p.m.)

Merial Cornell and Mary Joan Wright and Mr. Metzger of TYA presented the Youth Council budget. After staff changes and turn over took place the youth came to them about continuing the summer program. They felt that it was important to continue drug and alcohol free activities for the youth in town. In the 2008-2009 fiscal year; \$17,000 was cut from the budget and a part time position was removed as well. Their goal is to add programs, possibly theatre in the fall, more arts, specifically fine arts and would hope to collaborate with BEI, the Teen Center and the Library. The musical is self funding. The major challenges they face is that they have no space, currently they are storing items at their homes, it would be their hope that they would have a dry storage area provided by the town that would be easily accessible to them. This department could not function without the full time position; they are in a job-sharing position now. Mr. Metzger spoke highly of Ms. Wright and Ms. Cornell. The youth currently also plan events for other

students in town, such as a bridge for 5th to 6th grade event, involvement continues to grow. There over 100 children involved now and that number continues to grow. Youth Council ended at 7:33 p.m.

BEI: (7:34 p.m.)

Mr. John Annick Co-Chair of the Town of Trumbull BEI (and also involved with the Trumbull Advisory Cable) was present to present the BEI budget. BEI started in 1996. BEI's budget consists of 3 parts; BEI, Channel 17 & utilities for the Helen Plumb building. BEI and the Trumbull Chamber are housed out of the Helen Plumb Building. BEI serves all students in Trumbull both public and private. BEI fosters mini grant programs, there were 17 grants awarded last year totaling \$15,000. BEI works in tandem with the Trumbull Library System and the Chamber. The Trumbull Educational Channel currently tapes 9 board meetings, Health programs at the hospital, Rails to Trails and the First Selectman Forum, and have covered the 2007 & the 2009 elections. Their goal would be to do more editing, they already have the equipment. They would need \$2,000 to cover the additional costs and would like to have a 1 screen and projector for the council chambers (approximately \$5,000) for any time a power point presentation takes place during a meeting, that would allow for better viewing of the power point on Channel 17. BEI understands the economic climate and will continue to apply for grants to help secure these goals. BEI ended at 7:44 p.m.

Libraries: (7:44 p.m.)

Director of Library, Ms. Susan Horton and Assistant Director Louis Sheehy were present to present the library budget. Staffing levels have not kept up with the currents usage stats. In 1984 there were 16 positions in 2010 there are 14, there has been a substantial square footage increase and circulation statistics have increased to 9,894 items per year. This shows that the library is doing a lot more with a lot less. The major challenges are the aging computers; all are approximately 9 years old, 24 of the computers in the building are for the public. They have recently been awarded a \$17,500 grant which will allow the library to replace the 24 public computers. The HVAC system has had problems and was thought to have been resolved but it has not it; only moved the issues to another portion of the library. Parking has been an issue for quite awhile; they have a good plan to solve the parking shortage by adding parking to the children's side of the building while keeping the park like grounds. The Library Board is spearheading that project.

(Mr. Rotondo arrived at 7:48 p.m.)

The library has requested a teen librarian for 4 budget cycles. The building is need of a renovation, it was built 40 years ago, there is no flexibility to the floor plan based upon the fact that the first floor book shelves support the upper mezzanine and they are in need of meeting rooms and quiet rooms. The reduction in part time positions is a result of the original budget including a 3% increase for all part timers, which was not to be included and has been eliminated from the budget (in 2 steps). The library is comfortable with that reduction. The library generates revenue from fines, room rentals and copiers. That revenue goes into an account, the Friends of the library also fund part of the library collection. Due to these additional funds, the library has not had to request an increase for materials in 3 years. Libraries ended at 7:55 p.m.

Recreation: (7:55 p.m.)

Recreation Director Mary Markham was present to present the budget.

There are 4 staff members year round; the Director, Asst. Director, one full time position and one part time position. There are approximately 150 employees during the summer months to cover all programs and the pools. The recreation department runs programs year round and is always spread thin. The only issue the department has is that the compensatory time is hard to take, there really is not enough time to take it, last year the director did take it as a payout, although this year the director has an assistant and would expect the comp time to far less. The department does bring in revenue for the town.

Recreation ended at 8:02 p.m.

Public Events: (8:04 p.m.)

Ms. Pires, Director of Finance was present to present the Public Events budget.

This line item consists of the Memorial Day Parade, the Holiday Brunch, Boards and Commissions Dinner (pursuant to the Town Charter), Scouts Government Day and the Employee Picnic. The parade does normally cost approximately \$10-11,000. The parade committee has been meeting and the parade does seem to be approximately the same cost this year.

Trumbull Day: (8:10 p.m.)

Ms. Pires, Director of Finance was present to present the Trumbull Day budget. Trumbull Day has been cancelled this year; all that is in the budget are the clerical fees.

Social Services: Information had been forwarded to the committee prior to this meeting.

Debt Services: (8:12 p.m.)

Ms. Pires, Director of Finance was present to present the Debt Services account. This includes 3 accounts, the Education department for all schools for the year; the 0900 account which is all other buildings other than schools and the general fund. The golf course pays for their own bonds. As a point of clarification the school bonds are not included in the education budget, they are in the town's budget.

Debt Service ended at 8:20 p.m.

The Chair called a recess at 8:21 p.m.)

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 8:26 p.m.

Board of Health: (8:27 p.m.)

Patrice Sulik was present to present the Health District Budget. The Health district is looking at another office space which will be on the Monroe/Trumbull border, currently they are housed out of the Town Hall annex, which is not enough space. The first selectman has reduced this budget by \$10,000. They have implemented a cut in pay increases from 3% down to 1½ % last year and there are no step increases and have increased the employee contributions to their health care.

Health District ended at 8:35 p.m.

Tashua Knolls Golf Course Enterprise: (8:37 p.m.)

Mr. Bobby Brown, General Manager, Mr. Owen Evans Vice- Chairman of the Golf Course Commission and Commissioner David Galla were present to present the budget. The projected revenue is \$1.975 million; if the spring is extraordinary it could be at \$2 million. There has been an increase of rounds; the 9-hole course is at 17,500 rounds. There has been no rate increase; this is only the second time in the history of the golf course. Many private clubs are in decline due to the economic climate, therefore the course is getting many requests by these venues. Weekend use of the course is 40% residents and 60% non-residents. A survey had been completed showing Trumbull as having ranked 7th on the list for non-resident fees; there is room there to increase non-resident fees if necessary. The account consists of 6 employees total, one contracted and 5 union positions. Tashua Knolls Golf course enterprise ended at 8:43 p.m.

Building Official: (8:44 p.m.)

Mr. Graham Bissett was present to present the Building Official budget. There was no major budget request this year. Under capital outlay there is an amount of \$4,733 that is due the fact that a car was given to the Public Works depart. The car should come off the budget. There are 4 full time employees, an official, a deputy official, an administrative assistant and a part time clerk. \$315,000 worth of fees have been taken in to date, the goal for this year is \$500,000 and will probably come close. The department is down one inspector, an assistant had not been funded; it is sustainable now. The blight officer is an asset to the town; he works 28 hours per week. Building Official ended at 8:54 p.m.

Town Attorneys: (8:53 p.m.)

Atty. Robert Nicola, Atty. Edward Walsh, Atty. Mario Coppola and Atty. Dennis Kokenos were present to present the Town Attorney budget. Also present was First Selectman Herbst. The account is being changed under the new administration as to how it will be funded; there are 3 attorneys as opposed to the previous 4. There will not be health insurance policies (a value of approximately \$18,000 per employee) or FICA and workman's comp. The total previous town attorney budget would have the equivalent of \$285,000 to \$290,000. This budget proposes a \$275,000 budget. The BoF removed \$40,000 from the account, which if the deduction stands it would be necessary to come back for a supplemental. The new system will allow for tracking of all time and will be auditable, allowing for full disclosure, which is important to the first selectman. Town Attorneys ended at 9:14 p.m.

Town Hall: (9:16 p.m.)

Ms. Pires, Director of Finance was present to present the Town Hall budget. This line item represents all unsettled contracts as a Contingency Account, such as the MATE contract and all insurance. \$3,000 had been restored by the BoF for the Clean Energy Funding. Town Hall ended at 9:23 p.m.

Parks: No one present

Ms. Pires noted that the BoF restored funding for summer help. A note will be sent to question what the impact will be if the \$12,000 is not restored. Clerical had been an

employee of the town and is no longer with the town; it would now be a clerical line item which is needed. Parks ended at 9:30 p.m.)

Sewers: (9:31p.m.)

Ms. Pires noted that \$55,000 had been restored by the BoF for the sewer pump station; it was actually a position which was deemed necessary due to safety issues. Two men need to be working together to cover the other should an accident happen to one. First Selectman Herbst agreed this was necessary to restore due to safety issues.

There being no further business to discuss upon motion made by Mr. Scinto, seconded by Mr. Rotondo the Finance Committee 2010-2011 Budget Hearing of the Town Council adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Mastroni,
Town Council Clerk